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OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Action Memorandum No. 282

Date 6 August 1963

TO : Deputy Director (Science and Technology)

SUBJECT : Meeting with Admiral David McDonald, Chief of Naval Operations

REFERENCE:

1. At 1330 today I discussed with the Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral David McDonald, the matter of utilising a carrier as a base for U-2 operations. I told him of our fine success yesterday in the first take-off and discussed briefly some of the factors involved in utilising a carrier as a base. I covered in general the advantages and disadvantages and pointed out that I wasn't asking for any long-range commitment on his part but I did want permission for my people to get into the operational planning with his people without further delay. I told him that I was utilising a modification of two U-2s for carrier landings and that we were highly enthusiastic about the whole proposition.

2. Admiral McDonald was likewise highly enthusiastic and stated that he thought a mobile base for U-2 reconnaissance aircraft was a national asset that we could not afford to be without. He urged me to push ahead and authorized full discussions with all the Operations and other people in the Navy Department.

3. Please proceed accordingly and in accordance with the approved recommendations in your paper,

/ S /

Marshall S. Carter
Lieutenant General, USA
Deputy Director

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P. S. On Saturday last, I informed Dr. Fubini that we were about to attempt carrier take-off of a U-2. He was greatly excited and thought it was the finest idea since sex. He stated that if we do not have money enough to proceed at once, he will dig up the money.

PS/
M. S. C.

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